

Cheadle,
Cheshire.

23rd Sept. 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
ALDERLEY EDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1939. As requested in Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health the report is of an interim nature only, the records are being preserved in order that a full report may be made at the cessation of the war.

The main alteration during the year was the appointment of a medical officer of health restricted from private practice, a joint appointment with the Cheadle and Gatley and Wilmslow Urban District Councils. The part time Medical Officer of Health resigned on the 31st March. I desire to express my thanks to Dr. Byers for the assistance he gave me in taking over the duties.

This area being a reception area, evacuees were received, and in consequence the normal facilities of the district were augmented by a school minor ailments clinic, a maternity and child welfare centre, a communal feeding centre, and a sick bay. With the return of the majority of the mothers and children of under school age to Manchester, a playroom or day nursery was found not to be required after running some 5 to 6 weeks.

The Maternity & Child Welfare Centre meets a peacetime need and has been continued, in spite of the reflux of evacuees. In reporting this I wish to draw attention to the fact that all these services were staffed from the beginning with voluntary workers and that no extra paid labour had been required up to the end of the year. A mobile unit has also been staffed, except for one member, on a purely unpaid basis. The voluntary workers are much to be thanked for the work they have done in maintaining these health and other services.

The Sick Bay has received patients from several of the surrounding districts.

There have been no urgent public health matters arising during the year.

There were notified during the year only 11 cases of Infectious Disease (Scarlet Fever 3, Diphtheria 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2, and Whooping Cough 2). Measles & Whooping Cough were only notifiable in the last quarter of the year.

The provision of facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation was sanctioned during the year and has been carried out during 1940.

The Sanitary Circumstances and the general provision of health services for the area have been unaltered, except in one particular:-

Cases of infectious disease occurring in children under 16 years of age were removed to Westhulme Hospital, Oldham in place of Monsall Hospital from the outbreak of hostilities. This arrangement ceased at the end of the year, and cases are admitted, as in peacetime, to Monsall Hospital.

The amount of Public Health work carried out in the district was markedly diminished in the early part of the year by the work of preparation of the Air Raid Precaution organisation and later, its working.

In submitting to you the report of Mr. Watkins, (given herewith) the Council's Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, on the Sanitary Inspection of the district, I have to acknowledge his assistance and co-operation in all matters both as Sanitary Inspector and as Surveyor.

Finally I have to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement and consideration, Mr. Cobbett, the Clerk, for his advice and help, also Mr. Hargreaves and Council employees.

In connection with the problems arising out of evacuation, Mr. Armstrong, Chief Billeting Officer, has always been most ready to give every assistance, and the local B.R.C.S. Detachment and members of the W.V.S. have given their services so willingly that I wish to record my appreciation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.